



Mini-Grant Application

“YOUth Can!”

Due March 15, 2010

Presented by



Coordinated by the Nebraska InterCorps Council
a collaboration of AmeriCorps members in service in Nebraska





YOUth Can!
Global Youth Service Day Mini-Grant Application:

Thank you for your interest

What: ServeNebraska, the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, is making funding available to organizations, schools, programs and institutions to develop, coordinate and implement small projects that will engage Nebraska youths in service to their local communities in conjunction with Global Youth Service Day, April 23-25, 2010. Applications should address this year's theme: "YOUth Can!" Our goal is to include as many youth as possible and help them build a strong service and service-learning foundation. Details on Global Youth Service Day can be found here: <http://gysd.org/>

Your application should support Nebraska youth in local one-day or continuous service projects with a service-learning component. Please submit a full application (attached), including a detailed proposed budget and project description. The complete application should not be longer than five (5) pages.

There are two pools of funding available – one for efforts benefiting any Nebraska youth and the other specifically focused on engaging youth with disabilities. Please state which pool of funds you are applying for within your application. ***The mini-grant awards for both pools will be capped at \$500.00.***

Deadline: To apply for a ServeNebraska Global Youth Service Day mini-grant, please complete and return the attached application form no later than **Monday, March 15, 2010 at 5:00 pm CST** to Greg Donovan at greg.donovan@nebraska.gov . If email submission is not an option, hard copies by fax [402-471-6249] or delivery/mail to:

Greg Donovan
ServeNebraska
6th Floor/State Capitol Building
PO Box 98927
Lincoln, NE 68509-8927

Selection Criteria: Projects may be chosen based on the following criteria: number of engaged youth volunteers; cost-effectiveness; location; and proposed impact. Preference will be given to projects with multiple funding sources; projects that engage and/or serve individuals with disabilities, particularly children; projects that occur in central - and/or western - Nebraska; and projects that have a cost-per-youth ratio of \$1.00 per 1 youth or better. Applicants are encouraged to provide matching funds (cash and/or In-kind). Please provide information in the budget portion of the application about intended match resources. ServeNebraska reserves the right to award partial funding based on the applicants proposed budget and project description.

Allowable use of funds: Funds are limited and meant to be used for direct programming needs. Allowable uses of funds are project materials, transportation for participants, food, beverages and other necessary refreshments, venue or material rentals. Funds may not be used to cover personnel costs.

Reporting: If you are chosen for a mini-grant award you will be required to provide service data, including the number of youth engaged, number of service beneficiaries, and items created as applicable. Additionally, you will be required to submit a one-page project summary narrative at the conclusion of the Global Youth Service Day activity.



2010 Global Youth Service Day Mini Grant Application

1. Contact Information

Contact Name: Jodi Teal

Email: jodi@hetra.org Phone: 402-699-0937

Organization (legal applicant name): Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA)

Address: Po Box 260 Valley, NE

Youth Contact Person: Cailin Doiel

Age: _____ Email: phone: 614-7882 jdoiel1@cox.net

2. Project Details

Organization Type: (Select all that apply)

☐ Faith-based

☒ Non-profit

☐ Government

☐ Education

☐ Club

☐ Business

☐ Other:

Which pool of funding are you applying for:

☒ Disability Inclusion Youth Service

☐ Youth Service

Community Served: Individuals ages 2 to adult with varying disabilities

Description of Youth Population (ages, demographics): HETRA serves a variety of students in Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa ranging in age from 2 to adult with disabilities; including Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy, Cystic Fibrosis, brain tumors, head or spinal cord injuries, Autism, strokes, Down Syndrome, or visual and hearing impairments. Male and female participants, representing numerous ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, leave behind wheel chairs, crutches, and walking canes to mount a horse and take strides they would otherwise not be able to take on their own. The horse's rhythmic, repetitive movements work to improve muscle tone, balance, posture, coordination, strength, flexibility and cognitive skills of the every student at HETRA regardless of sexual orientation and language. Facilities have the capacity to serve close to 100 students a week between the two facilities.

Expected Number of Volunteers: 75

Number of Youth (age 5-25) anticipated out of expected volunteers: 50

3. Please describe your Youth Service Day Project plan and how it is applicable to the "YOUth Can!" theme: Students attend sessions weekly to become more independent and to build a strong foundation in their daily lives. Volunteers assist students with balance, speech, learning colors, counting, and reaching; all aspects of daily living. HETRA has numerous volunteers of varying ages working their way up in the levels of volunteering. Each is growing in their



leaderships and communication skills, all while becoming an active participant making a difference in the lives of others in the community.

Funds requested from the project will assist in producing and mailing the *Heartland Hoofbeat*, HETRA's quarterly newsletter. This newsletter is a chance for students and volunteers to show and tell the community what they have accomplished at HETRA. For some, putting their mark in the newsletter maybe a volunteer who helps a student sign their name or a volunteer who writes an article on how her volunteer commitment has made the difference in her life. Accomplishments are seen daily in students and volunteers all because they have chosen to make a difference in the lives of those around them.

4. Project Location (Complete Address): 29430 Ida Street, Valley, NE 68064; 4906 South 180th Street, Omaha, NE 68135

5. Does your project include a Service-Learning approach: ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: Student and volunteers will be producing a newsletter that will be read by approximately 2,500 address on the mailing list in the community. Students will sharpen their English and writing skills, their interviewing skills, photography and drawing abilities. The service-learning component will also be a form of disability awareness for our volunteers as they interview and photograph the riders.

6. If your project includes youth with disabilities or focuses on serving those with disabilities, describe how: HETRA provides equine assisted activities for individuals with disabilities and requires numerous able bodied volunteers to assist in the process. Beyond their weekly assigned duties for sessions, all students and volunteers will be asked to participate in the service project in some fashion. For some, this is as simple as a volunteer tracing a hand print for a student after they have completed their 30 minute riding session together. Every student will be given a chance to have a place in the newsletter, either a tracing or signature or a photograph.

7. Does your project plan to engage youth not normally asked to serve: ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain: Volunteers and Students are not asked to come to sessions to publish a newsletter, asking participants to do so will be tapping into different skill sets. Volunteers come to the barn to assist students in the riding ring, the service project/publishing the newsletter will be an added event during the week. HETRA instructors will encourage students and volunteers to bring their friends, family and classmates to come watch them ride or volunteer at the barn, thus leading to additional stories, drawings and photo opportunities. HETRA has an open policy for families and friends to cheer students on during sessions, we hope this project will give families another reason to extend an invitation to attend a session.

8. How will your project meet the needs of your community: HETRA produces a quarterly newsletter to feature volunteer, student, and the organizations accomplishments and upcoming events. This project meets the need of HETRA's dedication to communicating to the public about our program.

9. Day(s) completing service: ☒ April 23 ☒ April 24 ☒ April 25 ☒ Other: The week of April 19, 2010, with the exception of Friday, as there are no HETRA sessions on Friday. Students



only ride once a week, therefore to give ALL HETRA students and volunteers an opportunity to participate, we will work on the project Monday – Sunday.

10. How will you recruit volunteers for this project: HETRA will encourage volunteers and students in our current rider and volunteer data base to participate by sending emails to explain the project as well as reminders of the event. We will also have a designated HETRA staff at each barn, each night to coordinate this project.

11. How will you involve youth in leadership roles: The newsletter content will be driven by the youth who participate in the production. Youth will be assisting students and other youth who may not be able to draw a picture without the assistance of holding a crayon or encourage another youth to tell them about their favorite horse. Without the leadership and participation of the youth, this newsletter will not be a success.

12. How many youth are involved in the planning of this service project: The newsletter is a scheduled publication. Approximately 5 youth will help to arrange and collect the material, but all students and volunteers will be asked to participate by submitting material.

13. Is this project a collaboration with another service day: ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, which one(s) and with whom:

14. What supplies or resources will be necessary to complete this project: There will be sheets of paper with crayons, markers, and pens at each facility the entire week for student and volunteer use. The current Newsletter Chairwomen will compile all submissions into Word Publisher to create the final project. Any student wishing to assist in this task will be welcomed to give their input. The final edition will be forwarded to the printing company that HETRA uses for all of the printed material.

15. What is the plan for participant and volunteer transportation to the project location?
All volunteers and students will be at the HETRA facilities for their weekly riding times and their committed volunteer schedule.

16. How will you track numbers of volunteers and volunteer service hours:
HETRA's volunteers currently log time in a volunteer log book. All submissions will have the author's name documented in the newsletter.

17. What will the end result of your project be:
A completed Spring edition of the "*Heartland Hoofbeat*" filled with submissions of students, family and friends of the HETRA community.

18. How will you know your project was a success:

The project will be a success when the Newsletters are placed in the mailbox and received by approximately 1,500 addresses on HETRA's mailing list.

Budget Summary (Be as detailed as possible)



1. Please present the full budget for the project, highlighting other sources of funds.

Materials/ Supplies:

ITEM	REQUEST	OTHER FUNDS	SOURCE(S) OF OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
Paper, Printing, Labels for Newsletter	\$200.00		Printing costs are reduced - \$100 for printing newsletter due to a parent's employer	\$200.00
Postage for Newsletter	\$300.00		HETRA uses non-profit mailing status for cheaper mailing rates.	\$300.00
Paper, Crayons, etc for use to create submissions		\$20.00 in kind	HETRA's supply of materials.	\$20.00 in kind
Photos			We will try pictures with cell phones this year and down load the photos. In the past, disposable camera's could not get the distance shots. Cell phones will be sturdy enough if dropped during the photo opportunities. Cell phone camera use will be donated by Development Director and lead adult volunteer on site for each day.	
<i>Sub-Total</i>				

Travel (mileage, food costs):

ITEM	REQUEST	OTHER FUNDS	SOURCE(S) OF OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
N/A				
<i>Sub-Total</i>				

Other:

ITEM	REQUEST	OTHER FUNDS	SOURCE(S) OF OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
Supervision of Activities, collection of material, download of photos from cell phones final input into Microsoft Publisher.		\$720 in kind	Development Director time and a lead adult volunteer time for the barns during the week. 4 hours a night x 6 days (no HETRA sessions on Friday's) = 24 hours x \$15 per hour inkind volunteer time x 2 barns = \$720	\$720 in kind
<i>Sub-Total</i>				

Total:	\$500.00	\$740		\$1,240.00
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2. Budget Narrative: Please describe why the requested funds are necessary for the success of this project.



The last mass mailing sent by HETRA was for 1,502 pieces with a postage bill of \$366.00 and does use non-profit mailing status when mailing these newsletters. HETRA is requesting \$500 to mail and produce the quarterly edition of the *Heartland Hoofbeat*. The total number of pieces mailed (number on our mailing list) may increase due to addition of names between today's date and the date of mailing. Our annual fundraiser, Blue Jeans and Dream, will be held on March 27, 2010 with an anticipated attendance of 800, this event always leads to an increase in our mailing list.

Special thanks to State Farm Agent Larry Smith for his past support in Blue Jeans and Dreams Sponsorships.